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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,211	08/16/2001	Mathrubootham Janakiraman	MS#172026.01 (5211)	2348
38779	7590	02/24/2006	EXAMINER	
SENNIGER POWERS ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE, 16TH FLOOR ST. LOUIS, MO 63102			NAWAZ, ASAD M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/931,211

Applicant(s)

JANAKIRAMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Asad M. Nawaz

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-16 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-16 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination filed on 11/11/05. Claims 1 and 10 were amended. Claims 19-22 were newly added. Claims 8 and 17 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-22 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the limitation regarding the selecting from the video streams.... It is unclear whether the data is received from the participants' one video stream or participants, one video stream. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandvoss et al (USPN 5745380) further in view of Weisman et al (USPN 6839417).

As to claim 1, Sandvoss teaches a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for a bridge server in a multimedia conference to select one video stream from video streams of multiple participants of the multimedia conference for forwarding to a client, the steps comprising:

Receiving simultaneously multimedia conferencing data from the multiple participants, the multimedia conference data including a video stream from each of the participants (col 2, line s40-65) monitoring participant events of the multimedia conference (abstract; col 2, lines 52-65; col 5, lines 56-67) periodically computing a weight for each of the participants based on the activity state variable of said each participant (col 3, lines 1-13) identifying a participant having a highest weight among the participants (col 3, lines 1-13) and selecting from the video streams in the multimedia conferencing data received from the participants, one video stream corresponding to the identified participant having the highest weight for viewing by the client (abstract; col 3, lines 10-13)

However, Sandvoss does not explicitly indicate providing a participant state table indicating an activity state variable for each participant.

Weisman teaches providing a participant state table indicating an activity state variable for each participant (Fig 5; col 8, lines 51-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Weisman into those of Sandvoss to make the system better organized. The system will execute more efficiently if all the data were to be gathered into one data structure rather than multiple ones.

As to claims 2 and 3, Sandvoss teaches wherein the multiple participants are connected to the bridge server through a multicast network and performing the step of transmitting to the client an audio stream containing a mixture of audio signals from the multiple participants of the network conference (col 2, lines 52 to col 3, line 13)

As to claims 4 and 5, Sandvoss teaches wherein the step of computing the weight includes determining whether said each participant is currently being shown to a client and determining a length of time for which said each participant has been shown to the client if said each participant is currently being shown (col 5, lines 56-67)

As to claim 6, Sandvoss teaches wherein the step of computing the weight includes determining whether said each participant is talking (col 5, lines 56-67)

As to claim 7, Sandvoss teaches wherein the step of computing the weight includes determining a length of time for which said each participant has not been shown to the client (col 6, lines 10-12).

As to claim 9, Sandvoss teaches wherein the multimedia streams include a combined video stream containing multiple substreams corresponding to one of the multiple participants and wherein the receiving comprises demuxing the combined video stream into a plurality of individual streams (Figs 3-5; col 2, line 40 to col 3, line 13)

Claims 10-16, 18, and 21-22 contain no further limitations above the rejected claims 1-7, and 9. Therefore, they are rejected under similar rationale.

As to claims 19 and 20, Sandvoss teaches the activity state tables comprising at least one of an indicator the participant is talking and the state tables include at least the

weight and the participant events includes when a participant stopped sending audio (col 5, lines 56 to col 6, lines 12).

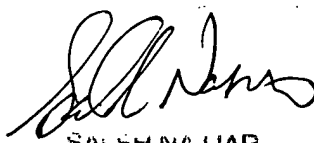
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asad M. Nawaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AMN


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER